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NEWS RELEASE

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FOUR ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUALS FROM PARSONS AND COFFEYVILLE, KANSAS, CHARGED IN CRACK COCAINE CASE

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced today that **Timothy Hans Ford**, 34, Coffeyville, Kansas, **James Jackson**, 35, Parsons, Kansas, **David Robinson**, 51, Parsons, Kansas, and **Wendell Martin**, 23, Parsons, Kansas, were charged on March 4, 2004, by a federal grand jury in Kansas City, Kansas, relating to a conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine in Parsons and Coffeyville, Kansas. Five individuals from Parsons, Kansas, were previously charged on September 18, 2003, in the same investigation. The federal grand jury also returned additional charges against these five individuals.

Melgren said that **Shannon Harris**, 29, **Adam Davis**, 28, **Franchester Griffin**, 28, **Debra Loyd**, 36, **Joseph Riley**, 25, **Jackson, Robinson**, and **Martin**, all from Parsons, Kansas, and **Ford**, from Coffeyville, Kansas, are each charged with one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute 50 grams or more (1.76 ounces or more) of crack cocaine from January 1998 through September 2003. **Harris, Davis, Griffin, Riley, Robinson, and Martin** are also charged with one count of conspiracy to maintain two places, at 2324 Washington and 2324 ½ Washington, Parsons, Kansas, for the purpose of manufacturing, distributing, and using marijuana and crack cocaine.

Melgren stated that **Jackson** and **Robinson** were arrested on March 9, 2004, and made their initial appearances in U.S. District Court in Kansas City, Kansas, on March 10, 2004. Jackson and Robinson have each been temporarily detained and are scheduled for a detention hearing on March 15, 2004, at 3:00 p.m. before U.S. Magistrate Judge James P. O'Hara. **Ford** was previously arrested and his arraignment was held on March 5, 2004. Ford has been detained. **Martin** is currently in custody in Cowley County, Kansas, and will make his initial appearance at a later date to be determined by the Court.

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Harris, Griffin, Loyd, and Riley were arrested on September 23, 2003. **Davis** was taken into federal custody on December 18, 2003. **Loyd** was released on bond and **Harris, Griffin, Riley, and Davis** have been detained pending trial. Harris, Davis, Griffin, Loyd, and Riley are each scheduled for an arraignment on the superseding indictment on March 16, 2004, at 3:30 p.m.

This superseding indictment follows a two and one-half year investigation in Southeast Kansas that involved drug trafficking in Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. The case was investigated by the Southeast Kansas Drug Task Force with the assistance of the Parsons Police Department, Labette County Sheriff's Office, Coffeyville Police Department, KBI, FBI, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, Joplin, Missouri Police Department, Oklahoma Highway Patrol, Winfield Police Department, Pittsburg Police Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The Byrne Grant provides partial funding for the Southeast Kansas Drug Task Force and helps make these types of investigations possible. Assistance was provided by the Labette County Attorney's Office and the Cowley County Attorney's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask.

Harris is also charged with five counts of distributing crack cocaine between May 2002 and September 2003; one count of attempting to possess with the intent to distribute more than 50 grams (more than 1.76 ounces) of crack cocaine on March 28, 2001; one count of distributing 5 grams or more (.18 ounce or more) of crack cocaine on May 6, 2002; two counts of distributing crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of Labette County Community College in June 2002; two counts of distributing crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of Garfield Elementary School; and one count of distributing 5 grams or more (.18 ounce or more) of crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of Labette County Community College on June 6, 2002.

Davis is also charged with one count of attempting to possess with the intent to distribute more than 50 grams (more than 1.76 ounces) of crack cocaine on March 28, 2001; three counts of distributing crack cocaine from May 2002 through July 2003; one count of distributing more than 5 grams of crack cocaine on April 29, 2002; one count of distributing crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of Labette County Community College on June 26, 2002; one count of distributing crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of St. Patrick's School on July 30, 2002; one count of distributing crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of Garfield Elementary School on November 8, 2002; and one count of distributing crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of Parsons Middle School on January 17, 2003.

Griffin is also charged with five counts of distributing crack cocaine from March 2002 through December 2002; and one count of distributing crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of St. Patrick's School on July 30, 2002.

Loyd is also charged with three counts of distributing crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of Labette County Community College in June 2002.

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Riley is also charged with one count of distributing 5 grams or more (.18 ounce or more)

of crack cocaine on May 6, 2002.

Ford is also charged with one count of distributing crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of Edgewood Elementary School, in Coffeyville, Kansas, in September 2002; one count of possession with the intent to distribute crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of Edgewood Elementary School in September 2002; and one count of being a felon in possession of a handgun on September 17, 2003.

Jackson is also charged with one count of distributing crack cocaine in November 2002; one count of distributing more than 5 grams of crack cocaine in November 2002; and one count of distributing crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of Garfield Elementary School, Parsons, Kansas, on November 22, 2002.

Robinson is also charged with one count of distributing more than 5 grams of crack cocaine on April 29, 2002; and one count of distributing crack cocaine on May 24, 2002.

Martin is also charged with one count of distributing crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of St. Patrick's School, on July 30, 2002, in Parsons, Kansas; and one count of distributing crack cocaine on May 13, 2003.

If convicted, each faces a minimum of ten years and a maximum of life in federal prison, without parole, for conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Harris, Davis, Griffin, Riley, Robinson, and Martin also face a maximum of twenty years for maintaining a place to manufacture and distribute marijuana and crack cocaine. Those charged with distributing crack cocaine face a maximum of twenty years. Those charged with distributing crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of a school face a minimum of one year and a maximum of forty years. Those charged with distributing five grams or more of crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of a school face a minimum of five years and a maximum of eighty years. Those charged with distributing more than 5 grams of crack cocaine face a minimum of five years and a maximum of forty years. If convicted, Ford also faces a maximum of ten years for being a felon in possession of a firearm. If convicted, each also face forfeiture allegations of \$250,000, representing the proceeds from the conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine.

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The charges filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.